

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HONG K 08209 280615Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-06 VO-01 SS-14 NSC-06 INR-05
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 IO-06 PA-01 CA-01 /047 W
-----061446 300651Z /23

R 280441Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1144
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T HONG KONG 8209

NOFORN

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: CH, VN
SUBJ: CHINA'S VIETNAM REFUGEES

REF: HONG KONG 8116

1. IN A JUNE 26 MEETING WITH CONGENOFFS, TA KUNG PAO
PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN SAID THAT OVERSEAS CHINESE REFUGEES
FROM VIETNAM, WHO CLAIM TO HAVE RELATIVES IN THE UNITED
STATES, WILL BE ALLOWED TO EXIT CHINA. HE INDICATED,
HOWEVER, THAT THE PROCESS WILL BE GRADUAL, SINCE PRC
OFFICIALS ARE MINDFUL OF THE HEAVY BURDEN WHICH A
SUDDEN INFLUX OF REFUGEES WOULD PLACE ON HONG KONG
AUTHORITIES.
HE STRESSED THAT THIS POLICY IS CONSISTENT WITH PEKING'S
NEW ATTITUDE TOWARD OVERSEA CHINESE.

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2. FEI NOTED THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO
CHINA, DURING WHICH HE TOURED REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SITES
WITH LIAO CH'ENG-CHIH, DIRECTOR OF THE STATE COUNCIL'S
OVERSEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS OFFICE. HE SAID THAT ETHNIC
CHINESE REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM WOULD BE RESETTLED IN
25 CAMPS (HE USED THE TERM "COMMUNES") IN SOUTH CHINA

AND THAT MORE THAN 140,000 REFUGEES HAD ARRIVED BY MID-JUNE. HE ADDED THAT DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE EXODUS MOST REFUGEES CAME FROM NORTH VIETNAM, BUT IN RECENT WEEKS MANY HAVE ARRIVED FROM THE SOUTH.

3. COMMENT: FEI IS THE SECOND HIGH-RANKING PRC CADRE TO COMMENT IN RECENT DAYS (REFTTEL) THAT CHINA WILL PERMIT REFUGEES WITH RELATIVES IN THE U.S. TO DEPART CHINA. DESPITE FEI'S REFERENCES TO REFUGEES FROM THE SOUTH, WE DOUBT THAT MANY HAVE SO FAR ARRIVED IN CHINA. WE BELIEVE A PROBLEM WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES SEEKING US VISAS WILL ARISE ONLY WHEN AND IF A MAJOR EVACUATION OF ETHNIC CHIESE FROM THE SOUTH OCCURS. SHOESMITH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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